

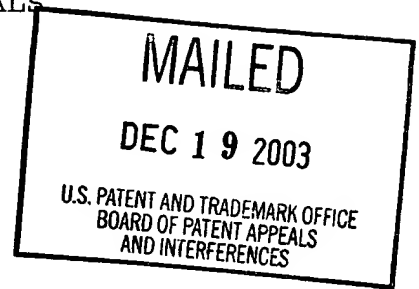
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES  
\_\_\_\_\_

Ex parte KAZUHIKO MARUYAMA  
\_\_\_\_\_

Application 09/355,732  
\_\_\_\_\_

ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED APPEAL TO EXAMINER  
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This application was received at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on November 20, 2003. A review of the application has revealed that the application is not ready for docketing as an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith being returned to the examiner. The matters requiring attention prior to docketing are identified below.

A Reply Brief (Paper No. 19) was entered October 17, 2003, in response to the Examiner's Answer (Paper No. 18) mailed April 11, 2003. However, in accordance with the revision effective December 1, 1997, Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.193 states:

Application 09/355,732

(b) (1) ... The primary examiner must either acknowledge receipt and entry of the reply brief or withdraw the final rejection and reopen prosecution to respond to the reply brief.


A procedural review of the reply brief indicates that the reply was noted. However, no acknowledgment of the reply brief was sent to the applicant.

Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that the application is returned to the examiner to provide written acknowledgment of entry of the reply brief to the applicant and for such further action as may be appropriate.

BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES

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